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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/642,591

08/19/2003

Takaaki Isshiki

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EXAMINER

OU, JING RUI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3773

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/15/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/642,591	Applicant(s) ISSHIKI ET AL.	
	Examiner JING OU	Art Unit 3773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on 06/13/2008 along with an RCE filed on 07/14/2008. Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claim 2 is cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the last paragraph of Claim 1, support for the limitation "allowing the wires to move freely without being restricted by each other in their movements" cannot be found in the specification and is considered new matter.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the last paragraph of Claim 1, Applicant recited that the wires cross each other while they are able to move freely without being restricted by each other in their

Art Unit: 3773

movement. It is contradictory to have the wires cross each other while they are able to move freely without being restricted by each other in their movements. As shown in Figure 3 of the drawings, the movements of wires 311 are definitely restricted by each other in many directions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

Art Unit: 3773

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khosravi (6,361,546) in view of Brooks et al. (6,346,116).

Khosravi discloses a sheath (the portion of sheath 52 which has the enlarged distal region of lumen 64 as described in col. 5, lines 19-22) being closed at the proximal end (by the narrow proximal region described in col. 5, lines 19-25), a flexible shaft (the combination of shaft 12 and member 54 which is attached thereto as indicated in col. 5, lines 32-35, and noting that shaft 12 is flexible in the embodiment described in col. 4, lines 13-16 due to the articulations therein), the flexible shaft being a wire member (Shaft 12 and attached member 54 together are a "wire" member since this member is very thin, as indicated in col. 5, lines 39-42, and elongated. The fact that the member has a passageway does not preclude the member from being a wire. For example, some guide wires have an elongated passageway through them for fluid delivery. Yet, they are wires.), thrombus capture member 14, 16 comprising a plurality of wires 24 forming a frame and having a configuration swollen in the middle portion and mounted slidably on shaft 12 at the distal end but fixed on the shaft at the proximal end thereof (col. 4, lines 24-27). Khosravi fails to disclose the filter frame wires 24 comprising a plurality of spirally-configured wires, said wires being arranged around a shaft by surrounding the shaft spirally and by allowing the wires to cross each other, wherein the wires are allowed to move freely without being restricted by each other in their movement. However, Brooks et al. teach that filter frame wires 56 comprising a

Art Unit: 3773

plurality of spirally-configured wires (Fig. 4), said wires being arranged around a shaft by surrounding the shaft spirally and by allowing the wires to cross each other (Fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 37-43) apparently in order to obtain the advantage of better supporting the filter membrane around its circumference. It would have been obvious to make the Khosravi filter frame wires 24 spiral and crossed with one another so that it too would have this advantage. As to claim 4, Khosravi fails to disclose a hemostatic valve and a tubular member to hold it. However, it is old and well known to use hemostatic valves and tubular members to hold the valves in surgical devices in order to obtain the advantage of preventing blood loss. It would have been obvious to include a hemostatic valve and tubular member in the Khosravi device so that it too would have this advantage. The proximal portion of shaft 12 of Khosravi protrudes from the sheath 52 when the shaft 12 is inserted therein as described in col. 5, lines 51-56. As to claim 7, Khosravi fails to disclose the slide ring assembly as comprising an inner ring and an outer ring with the wires sandwiched therebetween. However, it is old and well known in this art to secure wires between inner and outer rings in order to obtain the advantage of providing a strong attachment between the wires and ring assembly. It would have been obvious to so construct the sliding ring in the Khosravi device so that it too would have this advantage. The above well known in the art statements are taken to be admitted prior art because applicant failed to traverse the examiner's assertions (M.P.E.P. 2144.03).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khosravi (6,361,546) in view of Brooks et al. (6,346,116) as applied to claim 1 above,

Art Unit: 3773

and further in view of Rosenbluth (WO 99/56801). As to claim 5, Khosravi fails to disclose a side hole and second lumen in the sheath. However, Rosenbluth teaches that a sheath 11 for an intravascular filter should include a side hole 310 and second lumen 309 in order to obtain the advantage of permitting rapid exchange of the sheath (page 18, lines 13-22). It would have been obvious to include a side hole and second lumen in the Khosravi sheath so that it too would have this advantage. As to claim 6, Khosravi fails to disclose a side infusion tube. However, Rosenbluth teaches that a sheath 11 for an intravascular filter should include a side infusion port 15 attached thereto in order to obtain the advantage of permitting injection of contrast medium into the vessel (page 15, lines 15-24). It would have been obvious to include a side infusion port in the Khosravi device so that it too would have this advantage.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 06/13/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention on page 8 of the remarks, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an elongated condition and a contracted condition) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Besides, Khosravi discloses that the wires take an elongated condition and a contracted condition (Figures 2G and 2H).

The allegation on page 9 of the remarks that the combination of the shaft 12 and member 54 differs in both construction and function from the flexible shaft of the present invention is incorrect. Shaft 12 and attached member 54 together are a “wire” member since this member is very thin, as indicated in col. 5, lines 39-42, and elongated. The fact that the member has a passageway through it does not preclude it from being a wire. For example, some guide wires have an elongated passageway through them for fluid delivery. Yet, they are wires. The embodiment described in col. 4, lines 2-10 clearly stated that the shaft 12 being sufficiently short can serve as a guide wire by facilitating introduction into and advancement along a body blood vessel. Therefore, Khosravi's combination of shaft 12 and member 54 has the same function as the flexible shaft of the present invention. In addition, the wire 24 is fixed at their proximal ends to the flexible shaft and the flexible shaft remains within the blood vessel during treatment.

The allegation on page 9 of the remarks that the filter assembly of Brooks et al differs in function and construction of the present invention since the filter assembly basket 58 is fixed to the guide wire 64 at its proximal end 66 and distal end 68 is incorrect. Though the filter assembly basket 58 of Brooks et al may be fixed to the guide wire 64 at its proximal end 66 and distal end 68, Khosravi teaches thrombus capture member 14, 16 comprising a plurality of wires 24 forming a frame and having a configuration swollen in the middle portion and mounted slidably on shaft 12 at the distal end but fixed on the shaft at the proximal end thereof (col. 4, lines 24-27). The combination of the filter assembly of Khosravi and the filter assembly of Brooks et al has the same function and construction of the present claimed invention.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JING OU whose telephone number is (571)270-5036. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am - 5:00pm, Alternative Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Uyen (Jackie) T Ho can be reached on (571)272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JO

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773

September 11, 2008

Application/Control Number: 10/642,591
Art Unit: 3773

Page 9